

103D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. CON. RES. 44

To express the sense of the Congress concerning the International Year
of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 24 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 7), 1993

Mr. AKAKA (for himself, Mr. PELL, Mr. INOUE, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. STEVENS, and Mr. JEFFORDS) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sense of the Congress concerning the
International Year of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

Whereas United Nations Resolution 45/164 of December 18, 1990, proclaimed the year 1993 as the International Year of the World's Indigenous Peoples, in order to strengthen international cooperation for a solution to the problems faced by indigenous communities in areas such as human rights, the environment, development, education, and health;

Whereas indigenous peoples are descendants of the original inhabitants of many countries with diverse cultures, religions, languages, and social and economic customs;

Whereas an estimated 300 million indigenous peoples live in more than 70 countries, including the United States;

Whereas indigenous peoples are often disadvantaged and face common difficulties in their homelands, including issues such as self-determination, the preservation of land and natural resources, the preservation of culture, arts, and language, and dismal social and economic conditions;

Whereas many indigenous peoples continue to face discrimination and exploitation in their homelands;

Whereas the rights and social and economic conditions of indigenous peoples have often been overlooked by individual nations and the international community; and

Whereas the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations has drafted a Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that—

3 (1) the United States should play an active role
4 in cooperating with indigenous peoples, the United
5 Nations, and national governments to promote public
6 awareness of and improve the political, social,
7 and economic conditions of indigenous peoples;

8 (2) the United States should address the rights
9 and improve the social and economic conditions of
10 its own indigenous peoples, including Native American
11 Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians,
12 Chamorros, American Samoans, and Palauans;

1 (3) the United States should actively support
2 the United Nations in its efforts to establish inter-
3 national standards on the rights of indigenous peo-
4 ples; and

5 (4) the United States recognizes that the year
6 1993 is an insufficient time period for promoting
7 public awareness of the plight of indigenous peoples
8 and urges the United Nations to proclaim an Inter-
9 national Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

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